

Potential Health Plan Partners Meeting

Summary Notes

September 10, 2003

I. Introductions

Mark Meiners – Medicare/Medicaid Integration Program, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Evalyn Greb- Aging & Independence Services (AIS), LTCIP
Sara Barnett – AIS LTCIP
Tim Schwab – SCAN, Social HMO
Julie Johnston – Evercare
Mike Radu – Evercare
Diane Strum – Kaiser
Rosemary Pinpin – Universal Care
John Pierce – Healthy San Diego (HSD)
Melissa Stout – Community Health Group (CHG)

II. Purpose of Meeting

The purpose of the meeting was to engage potential health plan partners for integrated care in a discussion with Dr. Meiners and LTCIP staff on new Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) initiatives that are opening up new possibilities for realizing the local vision of LTCIP. Unlike past LTCIP Health Plan Workgroup meetings, this meeting represents movement towards a new era in LTCIP planning and development where the group no longer consists just of Healthy San Diego health plans, but includes an expanded group of parties and experts interested in participating in LTCIP under HSD expansion (HSD+).

III. Group Discussion

The following questions, comments and statements were made during the group discussion:

- Evercare applied for a CMS Disease Management Demonstration, which, if selected, could be rolled out in several states/cities, including San Diego. The demo would focus on improving care for a select number of dual eligibles (in this case, being dual eligible would be viewed as the special need group that would be addressed in the “disease” management demo). If San Diego were selected as a demo site, this would provide the opportunity for a fully integrated program with capitations for both Medicare and Medi-Cal, pending AB43 passing at the state level. Evercare expects to hear from CMS within the next 30 days. Projected implementation: early 2004.
- The payment rate structure for this new demo will be the new M+C risk adjustment rates fully phased in but with no frailty adjuster (at least at this time).
- Evercare was selected as one of three health plans for the MassHealth Senior Care Options program, a fully integrated program offered through Senior Care Organizations (or SCOs), covering the full range of acute and long-term care benefits for dually eligible and Medicaid-only recipients age 65 and over. Enrollment will be voluntary. The State and CMS will jointly contract with SCOs. Projected start date is November 1, 2003.
- The MA SCO will initially be offered a blended reimbursement rate with a PACE adjuster for nursing home certifiable enrollees. Later, the new M+C risk adjusted rates, along with a frailty adjuster, will be phased in.

- It is not clear whether the frailty adjuster will be offered to all M+C plans or just specialty plans. Mainstream health plans might oppose the general use of the frailty adjuster because the rate cell for the healthy or “community well” population would have to be lowered to maintain budget neutrality.
- MA SCO is a potential integration model for San Diego LTCIP. LTCIP staff and consultants plan to explore the feasibility of using the MA SCO waiver structure and process as a model for San Diego and/or CA. The next step will be to initiate communication with State Office of Long Term Care staff and the Regional CMS office to discuss idea.
- What is strategy for involving Medicare in LTCIP? The intended approach is to build off of the M+C frailty adjuster. Medicare could also be included under a waiver structure similar to MA SCO program.
- A Federal bill under consideration includes a “Specialty Plan” designation that would allow health plans to become a specialty plan outside of a demonstration and start with full 100% phase-in of the new risk adjustment arrangement, which does a better job of rewarding plans that focus on the sick and frail.
- In June 2003, the House Energy & Commerce Committee passed the Issa Amendment, which allows CMS to designate SCAN as a Specialized Medicare Advantage Plan to facilitate its transition into a normalized Medicare program. Before Congressman Issa’s involvement, the SCAN program had been set to expire at the end of 2003. The new authority also allows for these specialty plans to expand and SCAN is interested in expanding in San Diego.
- St. Paul’s Senior Homes & Services would like to bring PACE (Programs of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly) to San Diego. St. Paul’s is working closely with San Diego Hospice & Palliative Care to develop a unique partnership that would target frail seniors living in the downtown and central San Diego areas. LTCIP supports PACE expansion in San Diego and would look to any local PACE program as a potential LTCIP contractor.
- Health plan representatives present at the meeting were unaware of Evercare’s involvement in MA SCO and its CMS Disease Management Demo application. HSD health plans noted that the potential immediate impact of such a demo in San Diego and the new possibilities afforded by AB43 and other federal initiatives “will certainly stir things up,” as they recognize the interest and competition that can come about as a result of these changes.

V. Next Steps

- Initiate dialogue with State Office of Long Term Care Staff and CMS Regional Office to discuss possibility of applying MA SCO model to San Diego and other counties in California.
- Schedule follow-up meeting before Dr. Meiners next visit in November.
- Invite representative from MA SCO to present at November Planning Committee meeting.
- Continue to examine new federal initiatives and their potential impact on San Diego LTCIP.
- Explore idea of developing LTCIP RFI based on HSD RFSQ for health plans to respond to; tailor to meet State requirements for an Administrative Action Plan.

VI. Adjourn

Save the Date: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2003 from 10:30 AM –2:30 PM

Please attend the November LTCIP Planning Committee to learn more about MassHealth Senior Care Options from Program Director, Diane Flanders. The Planning Committee will meet on:

**Friday, November 21, 2003
10:30 - Noon
Pt. Loma Nazarene University - Mission Valley
4007 Camino Del Rio South, Room 204
San Diego, CA 92108**

Following the Planning Committee meeting, all potential health plan partners are invited to meet with Diane Flanders and Dr. Meiners for a more detailed discussion. **The second meeting will be convened at 12:30 at AIS in the upstairs Administrative Conference Room.** Feel free to bring your lunch to this meeting.

If you have questions or would like more information, please call (858) 495-5428 or email: evalyn.greb@sdcounty.ca.gov or sara.barnett@sdcounty.ca.gov